

JOHN STEWART

Biography from the Lehi Centennial History

John Stewart was born in Chester Town, Kent County, Maryland, September 27, 1827. His parents died when he was quite small, so he was raised by his uncle and aunt, Arthur and Julianne Merit. Very little is known of his early life except that he joined the Mormon Church, being baptized in the Missouri River in the dead of winter; he came to Utah sometime before 1851.

Lydia M Rolfe Stewart was born in Rumford, Oxford County, Maine December 26, 1831. Her father and mother joined the Mormon Church when she was quite young and moved to Kirtland, Ohio, where her father worked on the Kirtland temple. In 1836, they moved to Far West, and in 1838, they settled in Clayton, Illinois. When the old town of Commerce was purchased by the Church and the name changed to Nauvoo, the father secured a city lot and in 1839 moved his family there. They lived in Nauvoo to see the temple finished and endured all the persecutions of that time.

In 1846, they crossed the Mississippi River and started for the west. They crossed the plains in the company of which A. O. Smoot was captain of 100 and Samuel Rolfe was captain of ten. They arrived in Salt Lake City, September 16, 1847, and on the 12th of February 1851, Lydia was married to John Stewart by Heber C. Kimball.

In response to a call from President Young they left for California a week after their marriage and settled in San Bernardino. . In 1858 they were recalled by President Young, when they returned to Utah, locating in Beaver. In 1861 the family moved to Camp Floyd and in 1868 they came to Lehi, where they have since resided.

Mr. Stewart was a carpenter and builder and during the years of his residence in Lehi helped to build many of the residences and other structures. He died July 12, 1895, and was followed by his wife November 26, 1912.

The family consisted of eleven children as follows: Arthur Merit, James, Harriet Elizabeth (Mrs. Alonzo Rhodes), Julianne (Mrs. Edward Karren), John, Jr., Henry T., Harry Jasper, Margaret, Benjamin, and Samuel.